

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1350

Introduced by Assembly Member Salas

February 27, 2015

An act to amend Section 101852 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to the health authorities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1350, as introduced, Salas. Kern County Hospital Authority.

The Kern County Hospital Authority Act authorizes the board of supervisors of the County of Kern to, among other things, establish, by ordinance, the Kern County Hospital Authority to manage, administer, and control the Kern Medical Center and for the operation of additional programs, clinics and other facilities, care organizations, physician practice plans, and delivery systems that may be affiliated or consolidated with the medical center. The act makes related findings and declarations.

This bill would make nonsubstantive, technical changes to those findings and declarations.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 101852 of the Health and Safety Code
- 2 is amended to read:
- 3 101852. (a) This chapter shall be ~~known~~ *known*, and may be
- 4 ~~cited~~ *cited*, as the Kern County Hospital Authority Act.
- 5 (b) The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

1 (1) Kern Medical Center, an acute care hospital currently
2 operated as a constituent department of the County of Kern, is a
3 designated public hospital, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section
4 14166.1 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and a critical
5 component of the state's health care safety net.

6 (2) ~~Counties are~~ *A county is* authorized under ~~current existing~~
7 law to integrate ~~their~~ *its* county hospital services with those of
8 other hospitals into a system of community service that offers free
9 choice of hospitals to those requiring hospital care, with the
10 objective of eliminating discrimination or segregation based on
11 economic disability, so that the county hospital and other hospitals
12 in the community share in providing services to paying patients
13 and to those who qualify for care in public medical care programs.
14 However, in a new era of health care delivery, it is necessary to
15 pursue approaches that transition beyond acute care-centric
16 orientations.

17 (3) The ongoing evolution of the health care environment
18 requires public entities providing or arranging health care services
19 to pursue innovative health care delivery models that proactively
20 improve the quality of patient care services and patient experience,
21 efficiently and effectively increase access to needed health care
22 services across the care continuum, provide services in a
23 patient-centered manner, and moderate the rate of growth of health
24 care expenditures.

25 (4) The board of supervisors of the County of Kern has
26 determined that providing access to affordable, high-quality health
27 care services, and ensuring the full engagement and viability of
28 the health care safety net in the county are essential for improving
29 the health status of the people of the County of Kern. To further
30 this imperative, it is necessary that the Kern Medical Center, while
31 continuing as a designated public hospital and maintaining its
32 mission, is provided with an organizational and operational
33 structure that facilitates and improves its ability to function with
34 flexibility, responsiveness, and innovation to promote a
35 patient-centric system of care delivery featuring community-based
36 care. This can best be accomplished by allowing the operation of
37 the Kern Medical Center, along with other health-related resources,
38 under a new hospital authority that is able to pursue efforts towards
39 a delivery system that embraces population health management
40 strategies, is effectively positioned for health plan-provider

- 1 alignment, and maximizes opportunities for employees and
- 2 enhancement of staff morale.
- 3 (5) This chapter is necessary to allow the formation of a public
- 4 hospital authority for the purposes described above.

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